Temperance – 1935

SAVANNAH, GA.
NEWS

JAN 30 1935

HUMAN KINDNESS

Recently an aged negro, DAVID LOVITT, whose age is 17 years beyond man's allotted three-score years and ten, while driving a truck en route to his home on Seventeenth and Orange streets, was halted by an officer of the law and questioned in regard to his chauffeur's license.

The man brought his lumbering truck to a stop when challenged by the officer, answered all questions in a respectful manner and was about to proceed homeward with a clear conscience and a clean bill of law when suddenly the officer's eagle eyes espied a package on the seat beside the driver.

The said package contained no bomb or burglar's kit, nor did it hold inflamatory literature or immoral tracts, but it did contain one half gallon of verboten spirits, corn whiskey, which the old man had gone to procure for his sick wife after his day's toil was done.

The fact that these spirits were obtained for medicinal purposes, or the fact that any whiskies are bought and transported anywhere in North Carolina for the purpose of saving the lives of flu or pneumonia victims, augurs no good legally for the transporter under the so-called Prohibition or Turlington act in North Carolina.

So old man DAVID was placed under arrest. Naturally DAVID LOVITT turned to his white friends, HORACE T. KING, HENRY EVERETT and others; and Mr. KING furnished bond so that the harmless old man might not have to suffer durance vile for providing medicine for his spouse.

Then, of course, came trial before Judge ALTON LENNON, recorder of New Hanover county, who, after hearing the flimsy evidence that showed absolutely no criminal intent, promptly ruled that the truck the aged negro was driving was the property of his wife; and, therefore, not subject to confiscation by the state of North Carolina. Recorder LENNON also ordered that the whiskey, which, in this instance was unmistakably intended for medicinal purposes, should be returned to DAVID LOVITT.

State's Voters Decide To Retain Prohibition Law By Close Margin

Vote Tabulation

COUNTIES	Total Boxes	Boxes Reported	Yes	No
17 Autauga (C)	654	458		
28 Baldwin (C)	695	1248		
26 Barbour (C)	837	810		
25 Bibb (C)	1040	669		
40 Blount (C)	1609	532		
16 Bullock (C)	389	415		
32 Butler (C)	1137	625		
45 Calhoun 44	2670	1820		
23 Chambers (C)	2113	642		
31 Cherokee 25	1114	346		
26 Chilton 20	1433	591		
32 Choctaw 2	68	78		
27 Clarke 20	735	559		
23 Clay 22	1491	429		
15 Cleburne (C)	651	386		
30 Coffee (C)	1374	764		
25 Colbert (C)	807	1365		
27 Conecuh 25	850	629		
18 Coosa (C)	764	350		
45 Covington (C)	1282	1703		
30 Crenshaw (C)	819	946		
42 Cullman (C)	1980	1659		
26 Dale (C)	1116	724		
35 Dallas 34)	1012	1338		
44 DeKalb 43	3544	839		
29 Elmore (C)	1480	1079		
30 Escambia 27	613	849		
56 Etowah 50	2727	2239		
29 Fayette 28	1794	467		
26 Franklin (C)	1484	696		
26 Geneva 25	1310	830		
13 Greene (C)	253	287		
17 Hale (C)	642	418		
25 Henry 15	352	471		
34 Houston 23	1243	1149		
44 Jackson 40	1818	591		
235 Jefferson (C)	12265	20923		
25 Lamar (C)	1587	321		
27 Lauderdale (C)	1955	1401		
28 Lawrence 25	941	354		
23 Lee (C)	914	824		
23 Limestone 22	1191	774		
21 Lowndes 12	199	167		
13 Macon (C)	502	427		
38 Madison 33	1428	2032		
21 Marengo 3	89	273		
19 Marion (C)	1829	465		
30 Marshall 18	1686	588		
44 Mobile 38	1208	9008		
27 Monroe 25	1022	538		
47 Montgomery (C)	2259	7,992		
52 Morgan 32	2542	1090		
23 Perry (C)	509	571		
24 Pickens 19	912	253		
33 Pike 30	1013	1281		
26 Randolph (C)	1984	391		
13 Russell 6		780	237	
28 Shelby (C)		968	1402	
31 St. Clair 21		706	1429	
19 Sumter (C)		480	570	
35 Talladega (C)		1525	1975	
23 Tallapoosa (C)		1364	1676	
47 Tuscaloosa (C)		2458	2767	
61 Walker 58		1773	3240	
25 Washington 17		345	523	
23 Wilcox 18		342	530	
15 Winston (C)		230	1350	
2156 Total 1948		89653	95666	

Drys Overcome Lead Of Modificationists, Going Into Lead By 6,013

208 Boxes Short

39,653 Favor Repeal Of Alabama Statutes, With 95,666 For Retention

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Feb. 27.—(AP)—Alabama, one of the only two States in the nation retaining their rigid prohibition laws, tonight in a popular vote had sustained dry statutes for the first time in the history of the State.

Only Georgia, where a bill to submit liquor control to the voters now is pending in the State Legislature today retains prohibition laws that ante-date repeal of the 18th amendment.

With surprising consistency counties that less than two years ago voted for repeal of the 18th amendment returned dry majorities today to whittle down an early modification lead and then forge steadily to the front by 6,013 votes.

CAPT. MULLINS SPEAKS

Capt. Sanford Mullins, leader of Alabama's repeal campaign, last night conceded victory to prohibition forces in yesterday's referendum but declared that Jefferson, Mobile and Montgomery Counties "should have some relief."

"The referendum is at an end and the drys have won a victory," Mullins said. "I now want to congratulate them. The campaign was free from bitterness and personalities and the people have spoken their convictions. It is my opinion that the Counties of Jefferson, Montgomery and Mobile should have some relief since they voted overwhelmingly for modification."

The vote on three questions submitted to the electorate yesterday on returns from 1,948 out of 2,156 ballot boxes in the state today gave the following results, subject to revision on official canvasses:

1. For modification of existing dry statutes, 89,653, and against 95,666.

3. For legalization of beer and wine, 89,328, and against 93,872.

3. For legalization of hard liquor 87,903, and against 95,085.

While the referendum had no legal standing, it would have served as a mandate to the legislature which reconvenes on April 30 to shape its course accordingly.

Already there was talk going the rounds that since the three most populous counties, Montgomery, Mobile and Jefferson (Birmingham) had voted overwhelmingly for repeal, that local option should be voted by the law makers.

At least one representative, who asked that his name be withheld temporarily, had under consideration a bill to give these counties beer and wine with State controlled stores for hard liquor.

The three most populous counties, Montgomery, Mobile and Jefferson returned a combined majority for repeal of 22,191, or more than 2 to 1 for repeal of existing dry statutes. Mobile County's vote was almost 8 to 1 for repeal, and Montgomery's 3 to 1.

The mountainous counties and those bordering along the Georgia line showed the major strength for prohibition, the ratio ranging from 3 to 2 to 4 to 1.

The referendum carried out the platform of Governor Bibb Graves who promised until the electorate voted a change he would veto any bill proposing modification of the existing prohibition laws.

Alabama in 1909 voted approximately 26,000 majority against writing prohibition into the State constitution and in 1933 returned a majority of 33,000 for repeal of the 18th amendment.

In elections where the issue has been raised between candidates rarely has the dry been given a majority, so the result in yesterday's referendum was a surprise.

Even the most severe weather of the Winter failed to keep down the vote in the dry rural sections as modificationists had predicted and hoped.

There was an undercurrent of antagonism, however, that indicated the question might burst wide open on the floor of the Legislature when it reconvenes on April 30.

State Can Thank Republicans For Prohibition Vote

Official tabulation of the repeal referendum vote appears on Page 2.

Analysis of the official tabulation of the votes in the recent prohibition referendum show that in 15 counties where Republicans have a heavy vote, a majority of 18,097 was rolled up against modification, the vote in these 15 counties being 11,632 for modification to 29,629 against modification.

The official tabulation made Wednesday by the State canvassing board shows that the majority was 8,166 against modification. Modificationists carried 15 counties while prohibitionists, with the assistance of counties having a heavy Republican vote carried 52 counties.

Counties where the Republican vote is heavy and which rolled up a majority of 18,097 against modification include Marion, Marshall, Randolph, Shelby, Walker, Winston, Blount, Chilton, Clay, Cullman, DeKalb, Fayette, Franklin, and Jackson.

Charlotte, N. C., News
May 2, 1935

NEGRO VOTERS SAID TO BE BETWEEN THE DEVIL AND THE DEEP BLUE SEA.

Dear Sir:

Many Negroes fear political scheme and trickery.

A large number of Negroes were carried to the polls last Monday. Ninety-nine per cent (*) of them were advised and instructed to vote for one white candidate for mayor and their own candidate for the city council and if they would even attempt to vote for other candidates their vote would be lost and should they be advised by anyone to divide their vote among other candidates they were being tricked.

The public is looking with interest for the reaction of these voters in the finals next Tuesday.

Some of them feel that it is impossible to elect their candidate to the city council with a voting strength of about two thousand or twenty-five hundred, which perhaps voted full strength in the first primary.

Some of them fear if they put up a solid front next Tuesday, knowing

that their candidate has little chances to one of being defeated, their vote would be useless and they would be without representation on the city council.

Some of them fear if they are advised to divide their votes among other candidates it will weaken the strength of their own candidate by assisting other candidates who have advantage of both white and colored votes.

Some of them fear that if they are advised by the candidate or his campaign workers to vote for more than one candidate for mayor and the one Negro candidate for the city council upon returning to the polls next Tuesday, they fear trickery of being sold out. Perhaps it would have been better to advise them to divide their votes among other candidates at first, as it will be more than difficult to change most of them for the finals next Tuesday.

Seemingly, Negroes and their candidate are between the devil and the deep blue sea about this council business.

J. J. METZ.

Charlotte.

MAR 22 1935

He Who Reads May Drink

Whether or not Atlanta consumes more corn whisky than any other city in the South, may be a debatable assertion—but such is the declaration of the inspector in charge of the alcohol tax unit in Georgia, who further says that the whisky is manufactured in indescribable filth.

In the judgment of this official these Atlanta drinkers would confine themselves to tax-paid whisky manufactured in reliable distilleries if they had any conception of how the moonshine brand is made. In a news story in the Constitution he paints a vivid picture of conditions existing about these isolated illict distilleries, which certainly does not make the mouth water for another swig of white lightning. He obtained his information firsthand in participating in raids. Here is the way he pictures this industry at its fountainhead:

> I have conducted raids on Georgia moonshine stills and have found filth 6 inches deep on top of the open fermenters used by the moonshiners. It is nothing unusual to find maggots, yellow jackets and even dead snakes in the fermenters, and on one occasion we even discovered a dead hog. Furthermore, negroes are generally employed to tend the stills and often we find them to be suffering from serious social diseases. In almost every instance, these negroes are by no means clean. Furthermore, in order to speed up fermentation, some still operators will go to the barnyard and obtain a shovel full of refuse from the horse stable and place it in the fermenters. For some reason unknown to me, this speeds up the fermenting process.

That is about the worst indictment entered against Georgia's bootleg corn, which according to rumors, is very much in demand in the Palmetto state, despite the latter never lacks for dark corners and illicit hootch vendors and makers. If the picture painted approaches accuracy the South Carolina manufacturers will have their genius and ingenuity taxed to the utmost to cope with the quality of the beverage made just across the Savannah River.

WILMINGTON, N. C.
STAR

JUN 18 1935

A POINT TO CONSIDER

IN considering the question of liquor control, an important element to be considered is the appreciable negro population of Wilmington. We believe it a matter of record, and we say it with no disrespect to the race, that most if not all of the distilling plants in the county are operated by negroes. A majority of the small time bootleggers are also negroes, many of them plying exclusively among their own people and peddling concoctions which the court statistics show cause trouble, including frequent fights and often killings.

It has always been our contention that where two races dwell in the same community, that the moral, spiritual and social welfare of one cannot be separated from the other. In brief, the hip-pocket negro bootlegger, who will sell to a white minor is a menace to white society, just as the big time white operator, who employs negroes or caters to them is a menace to negro welfare. For these reasons it is essential that we consider the negro and his plight under prohibition as we approach the decision of July 2.

The Cape Fear Journal, in its issue of June 15, after stating its own position as favoring the control of legal liquor as against the lack of control of illegal liquor gives some sound advice to its readers, from which we qucte two paragraphs:

"To these latter individuals we wish to say this: We in no way desire to influence your vote. It is your Constitutional and inherent right to vote as you see fit. But should you entertain the erroneous idea that your vote will be for or against the sale of liquor in the county we would beg to correct this error. Liquor flows illegally in New Hanover County as freely as does the Cape Fear river. Your vote will be for or against the legal sale of taxed whiskey in the county.

"The difference is obvious. With whiskey under county control the county will receive additional revenue through taxation which will enable it to eventually cut down other taxes which are now providing so burdensome to the populace. This in itself speaks volumes to the overtaxed citizen. Liquor stores will replace the speakeasies where heretofore men and women sent small children with bottles, notes and money to purchase "rot gut" whiskey, where homicides occurred, where crime and other evil conniving were spawned, where young girls not out of high school were lured by these beasts of prey; yes, even where 'reefers' were smoked and 'snow' was sniffed—by your sons and daughters. These things will the county-controlled liquor stores replace if the Cooper Bill is ratified in New Hanover County and whiskey is LEGALIZED."

This statement paints, we think, a fairly accurate picture of conditions as they exist in New Hanover and Wilmington. We pass along the opinion of *The Journal* for the consideration of thoughtful readers.

REPEAL AND NEGROES—

While I personally am opposed as a matter of principle to such laws as prohibition laws, like the Texas law to be voted upon on August 24th, yet there are so many things that Negroes need worse than they do whiskey, that it is difficult for me to develop much enthusiasm over the coming repeal election.

In spite of the aid of a lot of folks who drink wet and work against repeal, I think that repeal will carry by a safe margin, and that the state will be better off thereby.

But as for Negroes, I think that our difficulties and problems lie much deeper than whether we are able to buy good whiskey in state-licensed shops, or whether the best we can get is the bootleg variety. Whether whiskey be lawful or unlawful, we still are Negroes and as such we suffer a lot of wrongs just because we are black. It is these things which trouble me so much more than the kind of whiskey I am able to buy.